GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Import of Rice from China
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the rice made out of plastic has been imported into the country from China during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof;

b) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has given clearance to import of such rice into the country;

c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

d) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry to fix the responsibility of the concerned officials in import of such rice; and

e) if so, the details and outcome thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to restrict import of such rice into the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) to (c) No, Madam. Whether 'rice made out of plastic' is an agriculture product- say a variety of rice, is itself unclear. As such there is no Exim Code for 'Plastic Rice' in Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System), 2012, Schedule − I (Import Policy) and no such import of 'plastic rice' has been permitted .
Import of rice is allowed through Food Corporation of India (FCI), as per India's Import Policy under Chapter 10 of ITC (HS), 2012, Schedule − I (Import Policy). Further, Import of rice is subject to clearance by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). As per the data available in Food Import Clearance System (FICS) of FSSAI, no import of rice made out of plastic has taken place from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin, and Tuticorin where FSSAI is present.

(d) : On the basis of alert from International Network of Food Safety Authorities (INFOSAN), FSSAI had taken up the issue with the State Governments of Kerala and Gujarat and these States have confirmed that no incidence of imported plastic rice has been reported in the respective States.

(e) : In light of part (d) above, question does not arise.
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